LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A composition comprising erythropoietin and an erythropoietin production inducing peptide (EPIP).
2. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an erythropoietin production inducing peptide (EPIP), wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~claim 103~~ claim 104, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of erythropoietin and EPIP.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 2, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an EPIP.
5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 104, wherein the erythropoietin is recombinant erythropoietin.

6-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the EPIP is poly-D-glutamic acid.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, adjuvant or carrier.
20. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, <u>further comprising a preservative,</u> wherein the preservative comprises benzyl alcohol, a paraben and phenol, or a mixture thereof.
21. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises a buffering agent.
22. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein the buffering agent comprises citrate, phosphate, tartrate, succinate, adipate, maleate, lactate and acetate buffers, sodium bicarbonate, and sodium carbonate, or a mixture thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, further comprising an isotonicity adjusting agent, wherein the isotonicity adjusting agent comprises sodium chloride, glycerol, mannitol, sorbitol, or a mixture thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pH adjusting agent that adjusts the pH of the solution within the range of 5-8.

25. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, further comprising human serum albumin.

26. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is an aqueous solution, a non-aqueous suspension, or a dry powder.

27. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is in oral dosage form.

28. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, further comprising fatty acid(s), surfactant(s), or enteric material, or a mixture thereof, wherein components are mixed in liquid phase and lyophilized.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is in injectable form.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising administering erythropoietin to a subject, wherein the erythropoietin is produced by the method of claim 74.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising administering erythropoietin and an EPIP to a subject, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both.

42-51. (Canceled)

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid.

53-55. (Canceled)

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the method of treatment comprises treating anemia, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, chronic renal insufficiency, or end stage renal disease or any erythropoietin-responsive anemia.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the treatment results in angiogenesis in the kidney.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the method of treatment comprises treating organ or tissue transplantation subjects.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the method of treatment comprises enhancing wound healing.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the subject is a mammal.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the subject is human.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the erythropoietin and/or EPIP is administered by intravenous or intramuscular or subcutaneous or intraperitoneal injection.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 63, wherein the erythropoietin, EPIP, or erythropoietin and EPIP is administered orally or rectally.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein a mechanical device directs a stream of a therapeutically effective amount of poly-D-glutamic acid into the oral cavity of a mammal while the mammal is inhaling.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the mechanical device is selected from the group consisting of a nebulizer, a metered dose inhaler, and a powder inhaler.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the administration of poly-D-glutamic acid results in a red blood cell level of 5000 or more erythrocytes per μL of blood.

68-71. (Canceled)

72. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for the production of erythropoietin, the method comprising: a) contacting cells in culture with a EPIP, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both, and b) harvesting erythropoietin from these cells.

73. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for the production of erythropoietin, comprising a) administering a EPIP to a mammal, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both, and b) harvesting erythropoietin producing cells from the mammal.

74. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for the production of erythropoietin comprising a) administering a EPIP to a mammal, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both, and b) harvesting proximal tubular cells from the kidney.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein said EPIP comprises poly-D- glutamic acid.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein the erythropoietin is harvested by steps comprising: a) removing culture fluid from the cells; and b) isolating erythropoietin from the culture fluid.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 76, wherein the erythropoietin is isolated from the culture fluid by using HPLC.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein erythropoietin is not isolated from the cell culture.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Canceled)

81. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the cells are peritubular insterstitial cells.

82. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 80, wherein co-cultures of proximal tubular cells cause the proliferation of fibroblast cells.

83. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the cells are kidney cells.

84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein at least 50% of the cells are producing erythropoietin.

85-97. (Canceled)

98. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method of making cells that produce erythropoietin comprising administering to the cells an effective amount of an EPIP, wherein the EPIP comprises poly-D-glutamic acid, poly-L-glutamic acid, poly-D-aspartic acid, poly-L-aspartic acid, or a mixture of both.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, wherein the EPIP is administered to a cell that then stimulates the erythropoietin producing cell to produce erythropoietin.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 99, wherein the cell that stimulates the erythropoietin producing cell is a proximal tubular cell.

101. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, wherein the cells continue to produce erythropoietin after exposure to EPIP.

102. (Canceled)

103. (Canceled)

104. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises erythropoietin.